Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:FLW APPROVED BY EA/K - MR. HURWITZ

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INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 073056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, KS, US

SUBJECT: HOLBROOKE MEETING WITH KIM KWAN-SOK

REF: USUN 0958

1. REV. KIM KWAN-SOK OF THE KOREAN NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE MARCH 31 AT HOLBROOKE'S REQUEST. DURING BRIEF MEETING, HOLBROOKE REITERATED THE ADMINISTRATION'S DEEP INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES. HE NOTED THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT WAS AWARE OF OUR POSITION AND WE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME IMPROVEMENT IN THE SITUATION. ON THE SECURITY SITUATION, HOLBROOKE NOTED THAT PRESIDENT'S PLANS TO REMOVE OUR GROUND TROOPS FROM KOREA DID NOT CONSTITUTE A WEAKENING OF OUR COMMITMENT TO KOREAN SECURITY OR ANY CHANGE IN OUR INTENTION TO CONTINUE PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO KOREAN DEFENSES. HE SAID THERE WAS NO CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR GROUND TROOP WITHDRAWAL PLANS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION.

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2. DR. KIM SAID THAT HE WAS NEITHER OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA. HE SAID THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES HAD ASSURED HIM BEFORE HE LEFT KOREA THAT THE JAILED MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS

WOULD BE GIVEN AMNESTY. MORE RECENTLY, HE HAD HAD A

REPORT THAT AFTER THE SUPREME COURT DECISION UPHOLDING
THEIR SENTENCES, THEY HAD BEEN DISPERSED TO DIFFERENT
PRISONS OUTSIDE OF SEOUL. SUCH DISPERSAL HE TOOK AS A
BAD SIGN.

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Message Attributes

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